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REPORTING LIVE FROM SXSW {page 12}

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NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

CARMELO ANTHONY: THE HEAD GARDENER

- Is 'Melo running the show at MSG?
- Speculation runs rampant after D'Antoni's sudden resignation

{page 17}

▶ Carmelo Anthony called head coach Mike D'Antoni's resignation "an unfortunate situation" after his team's blowout win over Portland last night.

News

The fight to save soldier's best friend

- NY Marine wants to adopt dog she worked with in Iraq
- But there's a chance Sgt. Rex may be put down {page 02}

Annnd ... she's back in trouble

Linday Lohan accused of hit-and-run in her brand new Porsche {page 10}

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SAVING SGT. REX

Clock is ticking on one New York Marine's fight for her best friend Sgt. Rex served next to Corporal Megan Leavey in Iraq, and now she wants to adopt him Military may decide soon

An upstate New York Marine is on a mission to save the dog that served alongside her in Iraq.

Marine Cpl. Megan Leavey of Rockland County, N.Y., is desperately trying to adopt Sgt. Rex, a German shepherd military working dog. When Leavey served two tours in Iraq, the two were a team tasked with identifying and disabling roadside bombs.

In 2006, both Leavey and Rex were injured by an explosive. She was discharged with a Purple Heart, but Rex recovered from his wounds and continued to serve. But now that Rex is 10 years old and is in declining health, Leavey wants him to live out his remaining dog years with her.

But the clock is ticking.

In order for working dogs to be adopted, they must be thoroughly vetted by the military to determine if they're a danger to the public, Air Force spokesman Gerry Proctor said.

Because Rex was a patrol dog, he had to undergo a videotaped "bite test" that will be reviewed by an animal behaviorist, who will make a final recommendation. As part of the test, the dog is introduced to an ordinary circumstance, such as meeting another dog, to see how he responds.

Some military working dogs are put down after they serve because they are deemed too dangerous, Proctor said.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN
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A soldier's best friend

Beyond their military uses, many say the bond between a soldier and dog is very strong.

"These animals are soldiers. No one in America would expect a soldier to leave another soldier behind," said Barbara Teasdale, 60, of San Francisco, founder of Vets Adopt Pets, an organization that works to unite veterans and animals.

U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer has put pressure on the Air Force to allow Leavey to adopt Rex. He started a petition that now has more than 8,000 signatures in support of Rex's adoption. METRO/EAE

▶ Cpl. Megan Leavey and Sgt. Rex worked together in Iraq.

The life of a military dog

The military breeds about 120 puppies each year and there are currently 2,700 dogs serving alongside U.S. troops worldwide, Air Force spokesman Gerry Proctor said. Half the animals are German shepherds, 25 percent are Belgian Malinois and the other 25 percent are sporting breeds like labs and mutts.

Military dogs are invaluable in the field, he said.

"They are the tip of the spear in the war on terror," said Proctor. "They can do things that no human or machine can even come close to doing."

The dogs are trained to either detect narcotics or explosives; to sniff out IEDs, or to track humans, such as enemy insurgents.

Last year, more than 320 working military dogs were put up for adoption. And about eight were put to sleep via a chemical injection, Proctor said. METRO/EAE

In the news

Whole Foods eyes W'burg

An old warehouse might become a Whole Foods, the New York Post reported yesterday. The newspaper's sources said that the owners of the lot are planning to build a Whole Foods and a New York Sports Club on Bedford Avenue near North Fourth Street. The Whole Foods would be 39,000 square feet, smaller than the Whole Foods to be constructed near the Gowanus Canal. METRO/AB

In the news

Man indicted

The Manhattan district attorney's office indicted Michael Torres yesterday, who they say dragged a woman down a subway escalator and tried to rape her in a train tunnel. Torres, 29, allegedly attacked a woman on the platform at the Bowery stop on Feb. 8. An MTA employee reportedly saved her by shining his light in the tunnel. METRO/AB

Al fresco dining may be back in Union Square

UNION SQUARE. New Yorkers may once again be able to dine al fresco in the Union Square pavilion.

The Parks Department confirmed yesterday that it approved Chef Driven Market LLC to host a cafe at the Union Square restaurant space that has been empty since 2007.

"This seasonal cafe will bring food service back to Union Square Park," Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe said in a statement.

But community activists pushed back against the city's plans, saying the space would be better used for playgrounds the community desperately needs.

"They're taking a thousand square feet from potential play space from children in a community that has the least amount of playground space," said Geoffrey Croft, of NYC Park Advocates, a watchdog group.

Croft said the Union Square Community Coalition, of which he is a board member, plans to sue and hopes to stop the new restaurant. The group has sued before in an attempt to block Union Square plans. That suit was dismissed.

The restaurant, scheduled to open in the spring of 2013, will feature food prepared with locally grown ingredients purchased at the Greenmarket. It will also host nonprofit workshops, according to the Parks Department. METRO/AB

GEOFFREY CROFT:NYC PARK ADVOCATES

▶ Parkgoers use the space.

Rep. Peter King in US Marshals investigation

BROOKLYN. U.S. Marshals are reportedly investigating how Long Island Rep. Peter King was able to go along with officials who recorded an arrest in Brooklyn. King accompanied U.S. Marshal Lenny DePaul, who is in the reality show "Manhunters." King's office later posted a video that may be in violation of federal policy barring non-law enforcement officials from filming inside a private residence.

King tweeted a link to the video Tuesday, then later added another video, with footage cut. Talking Points Memo saved copies of both clips.

▶ King

"They've already taken down two people in the Bronx," King says at the beginning of the original video. "I've been able to go with them." He then described a "high-risk" individual that he was going to accompany the marshals to find. METRO/AB

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$500M payout to city after CityTime 'disaster'

GETTY IMAGES

▶ U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara yesterday called the CityTime project marred by "one of the largest and most brazen frauds ever committed against the city of New York."

A contractor that ran the city's scandal-scarred CityTime payroll project will pay $500 million to the city after a federal investigation, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced yesterday.

Bloomberg announced the massive payout alongside Preet Bharara, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, who called the project "corrupted to its core by one of the largest and most brazen frauds ever committed against the city of New York," according to The New York Times.

The contractor, Science Applications International Corporation, will pay the millions to resolve the federal investigation, according to reports.

The city paid $652 million for the CityTime project, which was intended to keep track of city employees' hours.

But instead, in a twist Bloomberg has called a "disaster," consultants hired to oversee the project were effectively paid $46 million more than they were supposed to get, according to the Times.

$600M
New York City initially asked for $600 million back from Science Applications International.

A federal investigation was finally required to figure out what was behind the massive cost overruns and the money-sucking scandal turned into an embarrassment for the Bloomberg administration.

Federal prosecutors charged CityTime consultants in December 2010, accusing them of redirecting the money to themselves.

Prosecutors also charged Gerard Denault, a former executive at Science Applications International Corporation, with getting more than $5 million in kickbacks.

ALISON BOWEN
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Robber targeting street food vendors

DCPI

QUEENS. The NYPD is looking for a thief who is targeting food cart vendors in Queens. In a spree that started on March 2, the man has robbed as many as seven food cart vendors in the past month. He robs vendors throughout Queens, say police, but mainly targets the area near the Queens Center Mall.

Armed with a gun, the suspect approaches food cart vendors, demands money, and then flees. In one incident, at 3:30 in the morning on March 10, the man robbed a livery car driver at 90th Street and 56th Avenue, again near the Queens Center Mall.

The suspect is described as white or Hispanic and about 25 years old. Anyone with information about any of the robberies is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers hot line at 800-577-TIPS. **METRO/CB**

City teacher turns into hero

WILLIAMSBURG. A city public school teacher turned into a lifesaver yesterday when she helped a woman who was not breathing.

Cassandra Byrd-Scolaro, 34, a teacher at PS 17, was on her lunch break at S&B restaurant when she noticed a commotion in the bathroom, according to the New York Post. A waitress broke down the bathroom door and inside found a 25-year-old woman who was not breathing. Byrd-Scolaro immediately began performing CPR and chest compressions until the EMT crews could arrive. The woman was taken to Woodhull Hospital in stable condition. **METRO/CB**

OWS protests Mitt Romney in Midtown

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Members of Occupy Wall Street and various labor groups marched in front of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel to protest Mitt Romney, who attended a fundraising lunch inside.

Occupy Wall Street protesters rallied outside the Waldorf-Astoria hotel yesterday morning, where Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney held a fundraiser.

OWS conducted a mock funeral procession, complete with Romney masks and a coffin to represent dying jobs. Other protesters donned hula hoops to signify tax loopholes that benefit the 1 percent.

"The goal is to show the world that the 99 percent is not going to stand by Mitt Romney," protester Justin Wedes told Metro. "He's here to pick up checks from rich campaign donors. We don't want our democracy for sale."

Yesterday marked the beginning of a series of events this week, marking a rekindling of the OWS movement, protesters say.

$2M

Romney is hoping to raise $2 million at three New York events this week, according to USA Today.

Today activists will march and protest outside several Bank of America locations in the city.

Occupy Wall Street will also mark its six-month anniversary this Saturday, March 17, with a march that will leave from Zuccotti Park at 1 p.m.

Protesters wanted to rally at the Irish Hunger Memorial that day, but Community Board 1's Battery Park City Committee rejected the idea on Tuesday — in part because board members said they were concerned OWS would set up tents and drumming near the memorial, according to The Tribeca Trib.

When asked whether Occupy Wall Street will protest the fundraising efforts of other candidates, including President Barack Obama, Wedes said, "We're not just choosing one. We are protesting corporate greed and corruption."

He added that OWS has protested "many Obama fundraisers," including one in November where he said protesters were corralled for three hours by security.

Romney expects to raise $2 million this week at several events in New York City.

CASSANDRA GARRISON
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Men-only naked yoga now offered in Brooklyn

PARK SLOPE. It's balls to the wall at a Brooklyn space that is now offering men-only yoga classes.

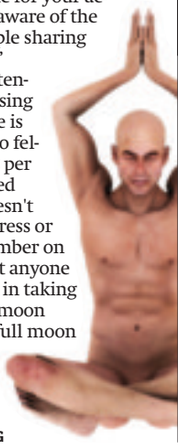
Naked Spaces in Park Slope is a self-described "safe environment for physical, mental and spiritual practices performed without clothing." Now, Naked Spaces has introduced clothing-optional yoga — and sorry ladies, no women are allowed.

While there are private yoga sessions that are optionally naked for both men or women clients, the group classes are for the gentlemen only.

The website offers some helpful FAQs for free-spirited men who might need some guidance on how to behave in a room full of downward-facing dogs. For example, the following was asked on their website: "What if I get an erection?"

Writes Naked Spaces: "Congratulate yourself for having a healthy reproductive system. Seriously, erections are natural. Some guys will get them, some won't; either way, it's not a problem. What you choose to do with your erection is another matter. Be responsible for your actions and aware of the other people sharing the space."

The potentially arousing experience is available to fellas for $20 per class. Naked Spaces doesn't list its address or phone number on its site, but anyone interested in taking their half-moon pose to a full moon can e-mail for the location.



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CHRISTOPHER GREGORY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rick Santorum campaigns in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. But does he have a real chance at seizing the momentum to win the GOP nomination? Let us know what you think at letters@metro.us.

SOURCE: WALL STREET JOURNAL

Delegate estimates

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What's next for the GOP?

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The results of Tuesday's Deep South primary contests in Mississippi and Alabama confirm what many political analysts had probably already assumed: It's going to be a long, nasty election season, folks.

Rick Santorum emerged a surprise victor in mainland competitions on Tuesday, winning both Southern states despite organizational and monetary disadvantages compared with front-runner Mitt Romney. But the victories, while nice, ultimately proved hollow: Proportional delegate allocation (in which the three top contenders, having ended the close night mere percentage points apart, will each receive a similar share of the spoils), combined with Romney wins in two low-profile races in Hawaii and American Samoa, conspired to crown the more moderate contender the true winner of the day. Romney scooped up the most (estimated) delegates of the night, muddling the Santorum surge and reinforcing the mathematical reality that his substantial (estimated) delegate lead will line the path to his nomination.

Then there's Newt Gingrich, whose second-place finishes on Tuesday invalidate his so-called Southern strategy, predicated on the historian's ability to sweep the more conservative U.S. states. The feisty former Georgia congressman failed to deliver wins in the region presumed to be most receptive to his patented big ideas — like moon colonization and helping poor children by giving them jobs cleaning schools. Regardless, Gingrich reiterated his intentions to stay in the race all the way, posing a serious threat to Santorum's prospects, which fare much better given a one-on-one battle with Romney.

OK, but where does that leave us? Well, the same place we were before, mostly. Despite his losses Tuesday, Romney's math argument, while not exactly inspirational, does hold a certain unassailable logic: Unless something big happens to change the race's dynamics — like, for instance, Gingrich deciding to suck it up and drop out — it remains unlikely for Santorum to top Romney in delegates. And, again, the name of the game is 1,144; any candidate that reaches this number of delegates will automatically be declared the Republican presidential nominee. Estimates put Romney way out in front.

There's another possibility, though less remote. If none of the candidates hits the magic 1,144 number, the nomination will go to a brokered convention, where party leaders will be forced to decide the nominee themselves. This is the outcome Gingrich favors. "I believe that after the primaries are over it will be obvious the so-called front-runner in fact didn't get there, and from that point we will be in a whole different conversation," Gingrich said in defeat. A conversation, presumably, involving child janitors and space fantasies.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Because sometimes there's no time for much more than skimming headlines.

- "Mitt Romney: Winning, But Not Getting More Popular" **BASEBALLCRANK.COM**
- "Actually, American Samoa Is Usually the Way the Nation Goes" **THE ATLANTIC WIRE**
- "That big Obama poll drop? It never happened" **THE PLUM LINE**
- "The moment Mitt's been dreading" **SALON**
- "The Great TARP Cover-Up" **REASON MAGAZINE**
- "Judge rules voter ID law is unconstitutional; permanently bars implementation" **MADISON.COM**
- "Mitt Romney muddles on" **POLITICO**
- "Romney Trying to Make Victory Slog Inspiring" **DAILY INTEL**
- "Obama's personal role in a journalist's imprisonment" **SALON**
- "Barack Obama's New One-Click Fundraising Trick" **TIME**

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Jury begins deliberation in Rutgers hate case

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. A jury yesterday began deciding whether Dharun Ravi committed a hate crime when he used a webcam to spy on his college roommate Tyler Clementi kissing another man in a case that put a national spotlight on gay bullying when Clementi committed suicide days later.

Terms like "tweeting," "IM" and "texting" are part of the evidence that the panel of 12 jurors must weigh to decide whether to convict Dharun Ravi, a former Rutgers University student, of any of the 15 counts of invasion of privacy, witness tampering and bias intimidation, which is a hate crime. **REUTERS**

Blago makes final pitch before prison

Convicted of federal corruption, former Illinois governor set to begin 14-year sentence today Appealing case, still has 'faith in the future'

Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich yesterday used his final public appearance before reporting to prison to defend his political actions and express confidence that his conviction on federal corruption charges will ultimately be overturned.

Blagojevich called his looming 14-year prison sentence, which starts today, a "dark and hard journey," but said he would draw strength from his belief that he had "helped real, ordinary people" during his years in office.

"We still have faith in the future," Blagojevich told the crowd of about 300 people who gathered outside his home on Chicago's northside to hear his final statement, which was timed precisely to coincide with 5 p.m. local time news shows.

"We are appealing the case," Blagojevich said with his tearful wife Patti at his side. "We have great trust and faith in the appeal and while my faith in things has sometimes been challenged, I still believe this is America, this is a country that is governed by the rule of law," he said.

Blagojevich was arrested in his northside home by the FBI on the morning of Dec. 9, 2008, on political corruption charges, including an allegation that he conspired to sell the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama in return for political favors and donations.

Three years and two trials later, Blagojevich was convicted of political corruption and U.S. District Court Judge James Zagel sentenced the two-term governor and father of two daughters to 14 years in prison for corruption. **REUTERS**

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Tech. Tablet computers

▶ Apple unveiled the new iPad on March 7.

GETTY IMAGES

Apple to sell 65.6M iPads in 2012

Apple Inc. is seeing record preorders for its latest iPad with wait times for shipping the tablet now reaching two to three weeks, said Canaccord Genuity analysts, who now expect the company to sell 65.6 million iPads this year. Last week, Apple introduced the highly anticipated third iteration of the iPad, which will hit store shelves Friday. REUTERS

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Lohan in trouble with the law again

It's been, what? A hot minute since **Lindsay Lohan** hasn't been in trouble with the law?

Her days-long winning streak is seemingly coming to an end after allegedly hitting a man with her brand new black Porsche and fleeing the scene in Hollywood late Tuesday night, according to TMZ. Lohan was reportedly trying to execute a three-point turn and avoid paparazzi while leaving a nightclub when her car made contact with the manager of a nearby hookah lounge. The manager, whose knee was supposedly grazed, initially said he was fine and didn't need medical attention, according to paparazzi on the scene. But when he was informed that Lohan was behind the wheel, he reportedly began complaining about being injured. The man was taken to the emergency room and is said to be considering hiring a lawyer and pressing charges. Police sources tell the website that they will open a hit-and-run investigation if the man decides to press charges.

▶ Uh-oh! Lohan could be in trouble yet again.

Theron adopts baby boy

Welcome to motherhood, **Charlize Theron**!

A rep for the Oscar-winning actress, 36, tells The Associated Press in a Wednesday statement: "Charlize Theron has adopted a child. She is the proud mom of a healthy baby boy named Jackson."

No further details were provided about the single star's unexpected baby news.

Lawrence is getting used to Hollywood

Jennifer Lawrence isn't in a hurry to make any enemies in Hollywood, so when a tabloid story suggested she was feuding with "Twilight" star **Kristen Stewart**, the "Hunger Games" star did everything she could to quash it. "There were all these like, fake quotes from me that were actually hilarious. Some of them were from my 'pal' and 'sources,'" Lawrence tells Access Hollywood. "Then I was like, 'Oh my God. If she reads this, what if she thinks it's true?' I just shot her an e-mail, and was like, 'Hey, can't wait to see more as this feud unfolds!'" Stewart, no stranger to being tabloid fodder, took it in stride. "She wrote me back," says Lawrence. "She was like, 'It's fine. Welcome to the world where everything you say gets turned into [something it's not].' So, she understood." Smart girl. The last person I'd want to get into a fight with is Kristen Stewart. I bet she fights dirty.

Lawrence

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Miley Cyrus is on the road again, Faye Dunaway has no interest in being realistic and Ricky Martin thinks you should laugh more.

@MileyCyrus
Road trip with mommy :) country music blarin!!!! "It's momm-mmmy time!"

@RealFayeDunaway
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Clooney goes to Washington while Cube hits up '21 Jump Street'

1. George Clooney arrived alongside **John Prendergast**, co-founder of the Satellite Sentinel Project, prior to testifying on Sudan and South Sudan before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.

2. Actress **Michelle Williams** attended the Marilyn Monroe Retrospective Exhibition at Daikanyama Tsutaya Bookstore on Wednesday in Tokyo, Japan.

3. Ice Cube arrived at the premiere of Columbia Pictures' "21 Jump Street" at the Grauman's Chinese Theater on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

4. "Missing" star **Ashley Judd** attended Meet the Actor: Ashley Judd at the Apple Store in SoHo on Tuesday in New York City.

5. Pregnant or no? **Drew Barrymore** was sighted leaving a "Rasa Yoga" class on Wednesday in Paris.

6. Elle McPherson, designer **John Varvatos** and **Nicole Richie** attended a party to celebrate their new NBC series, "Fashion Star," at Macy's Herald Square on Tuesday in New York City.

1: SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
2: JUN SATO/WIREIMAGE
3: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES
4: JUDE DOMSKI/GETTY IMAGES
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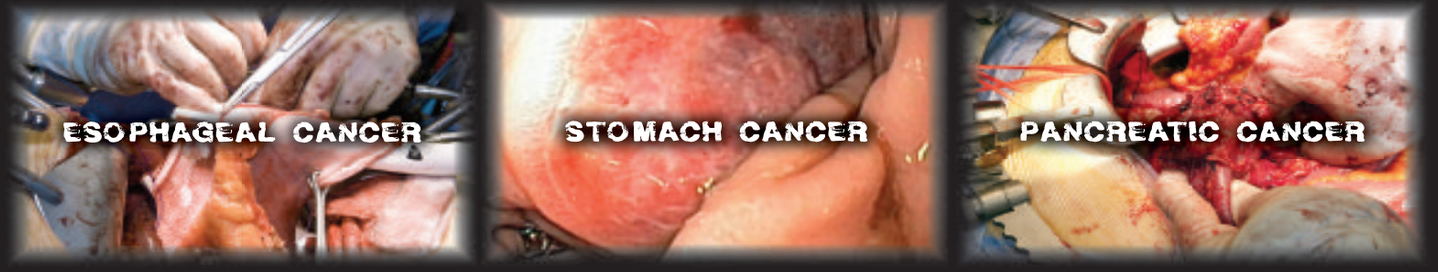

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▶ This is not America. This is Kasabian playing a packed show in Leeds. Kasabian play the much smaller Terminal 5 on March 22.

Can Kasabian conquer America?

▶ Between gigs at SXSW, singer Tom Meighan ponders that very question ▶ The band that sells out arenas overseas insist that they like playing small venues here

SXSW 2012

PAT HEALY
PAT.HEALY@METRO.US

Tom Meighan arrives with a bodyguard in a black SUV with tinted windows. The Kasabian singer is a superstar in his home country, but in Austin, Texas, at the SXSW Music Conference, he is afforded the luxury of anonymity.

Plopping down on a couch at the Radisson Hotel, he wonders aloud if American popular music will ever experience another British invasion.

"This obsession about breaking in America isn't really happening anymore for English bands," he says, scratching his unshaven neck. "It's kind of gone, isn't it?"

But not for Kasabian. With their September-released "Velociraptor!", the band is touring the U.S. for the first time in five years.

"You can get carried away with the arenas back in England," he says. "Here, it feels like we're 21 again, starting over."

A lot about Kasabian feels like starting over. "Velociraptor!" is a cleaner sound than the band's Brit-pop past, filled with funky grooves and fun lyrics.

Meighan says "Let's Roll Like We Used To" is about when he and Kasabian co-founder Sergio Pizzorno "used to smoke jazz cigarettes and wander through the fields," while the song "Rewired" is "about being naughty in a hotel room."

"We'll always keep reinventing ourselves," says Meighan. "Our next album, I said to Serge, we'll probably put eight songs on it and every song will be two minutes long, and it will be a whole electronic album with no guitars. I don't know."

Monkey brain brainstorm

One of the first indications that "Velociraptor!" doesn't take itself seriously is toward the end of the second song, "Days Are Forgotten," where Meighan talks about chewing a monkey brain. What?

"'Chewing a monkey brain' comes from 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.' He says, 'chilled monkey brain,' not 'chew.' I always had an obsession with making my own words. The only person who got it was my brother, because I used to say it as a kid."

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▶ *From your Duane to Shirley Baines my Angel B, God has given me a gift that I love and cherish. Always know I love you and you are the gift God sent me. I love you.*

▶ ***From Roadkill To Boobooz, I never thought I'd fall so deeply in love w/ u. We share a past, present & hopefully a better future together w/ our princess, cause you're who I wanna grow old w/ & I've known it since we both got tatted in 07. Xoxo Yveliss***

▶ *Dear Buddy, Don't let the man get you down. May the wind always be at your back. Happy St. Patrick's Day! Te amo mucho. Love always, Cindy (Your Boo)*

When it's time for an apology

▶ Squabbles are going to happen. Be sure to talk with — not at — your partner and consider offering up an "I'm sorry."

WAVEBREAK MEDIA

Rumors are swirling that Rihanna and Chris Brown might reunite. She has said publicly that being single is overrated, but there has to be more to it than that. I would assume that a heartfelt apology from Brown about his reported physical abuse that led to their breakup years ago played a big part. So how much power can an apology have? Of course, physical abuse is the extreme, and an apology was vital in that case, but what about smaller transgressions?

There are many things that can make one partner or the other angry and upset: He forgot to call, she was late and left him waiting, he promised to do an errand but got caught up at work. When couples sit down to talk about these issues, so often they simply talk at each other. "How could you forget to mail my invitations?" one will ask. "How can you not understand that my boss needed me and then the post office was closed?" the other will counter.

In these situations, there is no attempt to consider the other person's feelings or show any empathy. If this sounds familiar, it might be time to consider offering an apology.

People think of an apology as an assertion of wrongdoing. Think of it instead as a healing balm to soothe your partner's upset feelings. You had every intention of mailing those invitations. You may feel that the outcome was out of your control. But you can still be sorry that your partner's feelings were ruffled. Once the apology is offered and the wronged party feels heard and understood, you can then, hopefully without anger, get your communication back on track and discuss what happened so that you might prevent it from happening again.

An apology is a declaration of caring about your partner's feelings. It can be the magic key that opens the door to reconnecting.

Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER
HEALTH.METRO.US

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is the creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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PF2010-1

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Letters

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Obama's albatross: Race to the bottom?

RE: "WHAT'S BRINGING OBAMA DOWN?": Our wonderful president has done an amazingly great job since taking our nation's highest office. He unfortunately gets credited with economic problems he did not create, but inherited. President Obama has remained diligent and is making progress by addressing the U.S. economy. I never liked answers cloaked in cliche, however this is the one time I would accept the answer of: "It's because I'm black, right?"
RONALD CARTER, VIA E-MAIL

It's obvious that our president's popularity decline reverts back to his color. It is sad that we Americans always want to point the finger and pull the race card, but not once have the media really praised this man for what he has accomplished in less than four years. Soldiers and their families need to thank him for bringing them home.
TONDALAYA HARRIS, VIA E-MAIL

I think the American people need to give Obama a chance again. There is no way that he can possibly turn a whole country around when there are people who lost faith in him because he couldn't give them a job the next day. People keep blaming him for what Congress has their hands in, and that's not right.
ASHLEY ALLARD, JERSEY CITY

Respect is earned, not taken by force

RE: "SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR OTHERS' BELIEFS": Mr. Rivera bemoans a lack of tolerance for Bible-based beliefs? Newsflash: Nobody is persecuting Christians for their beliefs. They are simply being called out for using the Bible — a text that's been used for ages to justify war, slavery and a thousand other terrible things — to excuse their petty hatreds. All of us would do better following the words of a young carpenter from Nazareth, rather than vague passages from the Old Testament.
JOSEPH CONNELL, BROWNSVILLE

You ask why we can't show the same respect for Christianity that we do to other beliefs and lifestyles. Well, we'd love to — but unfortunately Christians won't stop polluting our schools and politics, and they continue to work to take away the rights and freedoms of other beliefs and lifestyles based on their personal religious motivations. If you want respect, be respectful. Stop forcing others to live by your belief structure.
KIERA CAPEHART, VIA E-MAIL

Our Founding Fathers wanted a separation of Church and State as a way to protect against persecution and discrimination. It was not the intent to create a nation unto itself to break the Law of the Land, which is derived from the will of the people. If our country believes a woman has the right to choose and can have an abortion, it is legal. If the Law of the Land now states that all insurance providers must offer contraceptive care, that law has to be upheld — with no excuses. Never was the separation of Church and State meant to circumvent the Law of the Land. If you don't like the laws, then you have the liberty to change them by democratic means.
DAVID DIBELLO, BROOKLYN

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Financial trends could be rather unstable. In situations where things are running smoothly, don't turn around and behave in ways that nullify everything you've gained.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Unless you're careful, you could put yourself in a position where you unknowingly begin operating against your best interest. Don't be your own worst enemy.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Your luck does have its limitations, so be careful not to press it too far; for example, don't attempt to use it as a replacement for honest effort.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you fail to control events, they will end up dominating you. Unless you devise a sensible game plan and stick to it, you'll be tossed and turned by the unforgiving winds of circumstance.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Although you are likely to be fortunate where your material interests are concerned, this luck isn't apt to spill over into the realm of reputation. Be careful regarding your self-image.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** As long as you can treat whatever happens philosophically, it should be a good day for you. Lose your cool or overreact in any way, and you could suffer some negative consequences.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Strive to be as fair to yourself as you are with others. After all, you're entitled to the same consideration as everyone is and if you don't give it to yourself, no one else will.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you team up with a partner, be sure it's someone who behaves as you do. You will be accountable for your counterpart's tactics and behavior, and you'll share the results as well.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Your objectives can be achieved, provided that you select a partner who envisions the end result the same way you do. If he or she sees things differently, it could be a bad scene.

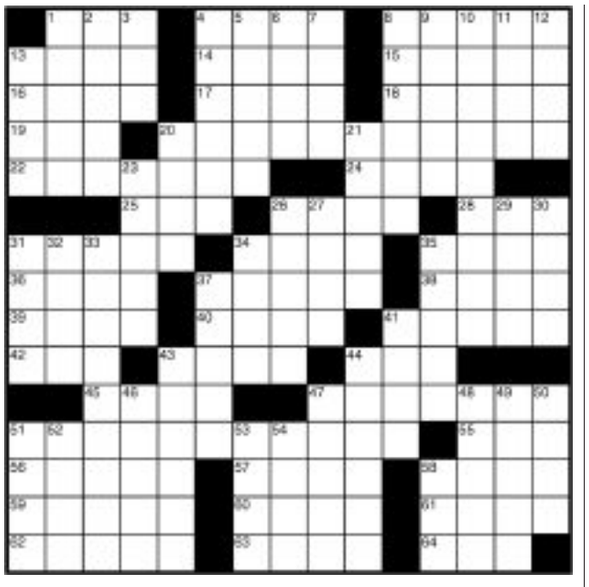
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If you're planning a get-together with friends, invite only those who mix well with one another. Anyone who doesn't could spoil everyone else's good time.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. There are ample opportunities surrounding you, yet you could be oblivious to them. If you can't or won't recognize them, you will only have yourself to blame.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** It's always important to treat everyone with whom you're involved as courteously and amicably as possible. Be careful that you don't kowtow to the big shots while disrespecting everyone else. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Dernier __
4 Hansoms
8 Look happy
13 Satyr
14 Black-and-white snack
15 Marge Simpson's hubby
16 Like limes
17 __ Thomas of clocks
18 Pinnacles
19 Chinese dynasty 2,000 years ago
20 Earth's crust
22 Drat!
24 Israel's Golda
25 __ Dawn Chong
26 Membership fees
28 Close kin
31 "The Thinker" sculptor
34 Bodybuilder's rep
35 Candy striper
36 Livy contemporary
37 Dromedary
38 North or South
39 Porgy's woman
40 Ant horde
41 Poker pair
42 Eur. nation
43 "__ __, old chap"
44 Vitamin amt.
45 Declaim violently
47 Wife-to-be
51 Largest sea turtle
55 Summer forecast
56 Bauxite giant
57 Apiece
58 Say in fun
59 Conch
60 Wee parasite
61 Racer __ Luyendyk
62 Move crabwise
63 Sioux
64 Pink lady ingredient

Down
1 Chocolate tree
2 Weeping over
3 Wabash loc.
4 Trig function
5 Mountain ridge
6 Jo's sister
7 London district
8 Molds
9 Japanese rice cake
10 Dunking
11 Nasty look
12 Gaelic
13 Saudi royal name
20 Give credit
21 Take a whiff
23 Power systems
26 Mannequin
27 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
29 Run in neutral
30 Social insects
31 Judge's garb
32 Type of mitt
33 Out of favor
34 Dear, in Venice
35 Concerning hives
37 Hindu social class
41 Fargo's st.
43 Fill the lungs
44 Treasures
46 Lagoon boundary
47 Ipso __
48 Darling, in Dijon
49 Lab slide dye
50 Feminine suffix
51 Bonny miss
52 Pre-college
53 San __(Riviera resort)
54 Cheese in a trap
58 Ruin a nylon



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					4		2	
	1	3			9			
4				8			7	1

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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		6				8		
	3	5		7		2		9
4		2	5				3	
6	7		3					
3					7			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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neighborhoods

Daytrip: Long Island City

Spend a day in the ever-evolving Queens neighborhood Start with brunch, then stroll the waterfront or one of three sculpture parks Last, unwind with free open-mike comedy

This spring, spend a day in Long Island City, a neighborhood as rich in history as it is in great brunch spots.

A historic hub

Before the LIRR connected to Penn Station, LIC was the end of the line. Commuters awaiting ferries to Manhattan met at Tony Miller's Hotel on Borden Avenue (now the fabulously kitschy **Waterfront Crabhouse**). Teddy Roosevelt drank there, as did architect Stanford White and actress Lillian Russell. By 1910, with expanded LIRR service and the opening of the Queensboro Bridge, LIC fell into decline. Ferries stopped running, and Prohibition turned Miller's Hotel into a phonograph factory. LIC remained a quiet, industrial neighborhood until the late '70s, when artists flocked to the area's lofts. In the '90s, new waterfront highrises attracted young professionals and their families. Today, LIC it has reclaimed its status as a hub of vibrant people, culture and art.

10:30 a.m.: Eat

You can't find a bad brunch on Vernon Boulevard, with **El Ay Si**, **Cranky's**, **Dorian Cafe**, and **Tournesol**. We like 4-month-old **Alobar (www.alobarnyc.com)** for its superb bloody mary and its duck confit Sloppy Joe with smoked ricotta (pictured).

Noon: See

After brunch, head to **Gantry Plaza State Park**, a 10-acre waterfront walk with spectacular views of Manhattan. In addition to contemporary art Mecca **MoMA PS1**, LIC is home to three sculpture parks: **The Noguchi Museum**, **Sculpture Center** and the **Socrates Sculpture Park**.

Across the street from PS1 is **5Pointz Aerosol Art Center**, a 5-story warehouse covered in legal graffiti. Visit between May 12 and 20 for the **LIC Arts Open (www.licartsopen.org)**, when hundreds of artists open their studios to the public.

3 p.m.: Drink

LIC has the kind of relaxed neighborhood bars that will make you think seriously about moving, or at least staying for another beer. In fair weather, grab an outdoor seat at **Dominie's Hoek (www.dominieshoek.com)** or **LIC Bar (www.licbar.com)**. **Sweet Leaf (www.sweetleaflic.com)** has a good selection of coffee and tea, which you can enjoy while playing DJ in their record room. **Sage General Store (www.sagegeneralstore.com)** has great baked goods; try the bacon brownie.

REBECCA FINKEL
letters@metro.us

LIC BAR

▶ The patio at LIC Bar is the perfect place to enjoy the spring-like weather we're experiencing.

▶ Old meets new: Gantry Plaza State Park on the LIC waterfront

MITCH WAXMAN

▶ The Duck Egg "Sloppy Joe" from Alobar

ALOBAR

▶ PS1 on Jackson Avenue

MITCH WAXMAN

Also in LIC

4 p.m.: Laugh

Wind down with open-mic stand-up at **The Creek and Cave (www.creeklic.com)**, one of the area's two comedy clubs. Free shows start at 4 p.m. on both Saturdays and Sundays.

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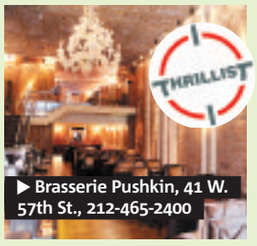
listings

Dining out

Brasserie Pushkin: With love, from Russia



▶ Brasserie Pushkin, 41 W. 57th St., 212-465-2400

Moscow's famed Cafe Pushkin has sent over their head chef to open a Big Apple outpost, Brasserie Pushkin, whose three stories of opulent, pre-commie nostalgia (angel murals that continue seamlessly onto the banquettes, a hand-carved classical relief on the driftwood ceiling, massive glass chandeliers) include a vodka-focused bar.

The Cossack comestibles are as decadent as the setting, with Osetra caviar or salmon roe Millet Blinis, beef tartare with borodino bread croutons, sturgeon Galantine stuffed with shrimp and olive tapenade and a traditional "Olivier" salad loaded with potato, quail egg, smoked chicken and caviar.

The signature main dish is a crouton-crusted patty known as Pojarsky (made with burger meat or a blend of veal and chicken), while also blowing your babushka are pork, beef and lamb Pelmeni dumplings and crawfish-sauced whole sterlet: a popular Eurasian fish that arrives with potato puree.

– Thrillist is a free daily e-mail that sifts through the crap to find the best of what New York's hiding. Get on the list at ***www.thrillist.com/metro.***

Where to go & what to do

FILM

LES Film Festival
Through Mar. 18, Grand Opening, 139 Norfolk St., $10
Running just shy of two weeks, this year's spirited program expands to fancier digs, features over 40 shorts and highlights films with heavy-hitters like Willem Dafoe, Dolly Parton, Paz de la Huerta, Jon Heder, Lizzy Caplan and New York Nightlife icon Susanne Bartsch. **MINDY BOND**

THEATER

'Tribes'
Through Jun. 3, Barrow Street Theater, 27 Barrow St., $55-95
Billy (Russell Harvard) is the deaf member of a rather pretentious, completely dysfunctional academic family that doesn't know how to listen or recognize that Billy's brother Daniel (Will Brill) is mentally ill. For better and worse, everything changes when Billy meets Sylvia (Gayle Rankin), an exceptional listener losing her hearing. **PATRICIA CONTINO**

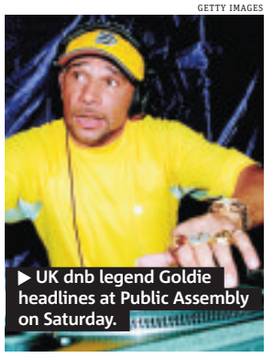
Bertolt Brecht's 'Galileo'
Through Sunday, Classic Stage Company, 136 E. 13th St., $65
It is not hard to get angry about the humiliation this man endured, but F. Murray Abraham's Galileo never raises his voice — because he knows he is right. His performance is sly, passionate and all about the truth. **PC**

ART

'Keith Haring: 1978-1982'
Friday through July 8
Brooklyn Museum
200 Eastern Parkway, $8-12
This vast exhibit boasts rarely seen sketchbooks, flyers, subway drawings, works on paper, cut-up writing and experimental video. See the downtown art superstar's oeuvre from when he first arrived to New York City, and explore his radically minded outdoor murals. **MARINA GALPERINA**

'64'
Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
HERE Arts Center, 145 Sixth Ave., $15
Jennilie Brewster created 64 paintings based on photographs she found in the "NYT." Inspired by her paintings, Timothy Braun wrote one-page plays based on each of the pieces, expanding on their visual themes. **JOHN PEACOCK**

GETTY IMAGES


▶ UK dnb legend Goldie headlines at Public Assembly on Saturday.

MUSIC

Why? with Danielson
Fri., 6:30 p.m.
Le Poisson Rouge
158 Bleecker St., $20
After years of collaborating with Anticon buddy Doseone, Yoni Wolf turned his solo project into a full-fledged band in 2005. While the band employs an appealing concoction of hip-hop, folk and indie rock, it's normally the lyrics that get the most attention. **SCOTT TOMFORD**

TRUST
Fri. 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Glasslands Gallery
289 Kent Ave., Williamsburg, $10
TRUST, featuring Austra's Maya Postepski, make a throbbing form of dark electronic music that would be terrifying if it weren't so addictive. Their songs are lusty, pulsing and weirdly flirtatious. **RUSS MARSHALEK**

Natural Selection 10 feat. Goldie
Saturday, 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.
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Resigned to success

Knicks coach D'Antoni resigns suddenly Rumors swirl after reports of issues between Anthony, coach Team ends losing streak in blowout

CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A rift between D'Antoni and owner James Dolan (pictured) over Anthony appears to have caused the coach to resign from the organization.

The Knicks finally made the transition most people were expecting since the start of the season when they accepted the abrupt resignation of head coach Mike D'Antoni.

His former bosses, team owner James Dolan and team president Glen Grunwald, addressed the media and tried their best to make it seem like this was all D'Antoni's idea.

The duo pumped up the now-fallen coach as an unselfish team player who decided to fall on his own sword. They also made it a point to tell all that superstar Carmelo Anthony had nothing to do with D'Antoni now being unemployed.

"It wasn't just Carmelo. It was the whole team not playing up to where we wanted to be. Maybe there needed to be a new approach," said Grunwald, who said the move was a total shock. "There was no called meeting. It was a surprise this morning when Mike came to this decision and would no longer coach the Knicks."

Earlier in the morning, after the team shootaround, Anthony had dismissed any idea of wanting to be traded as was reported. An hour later, D'Antoni was gone.

Dolan read a prepared statement and declined to answer questions.

It caught everybody off guard," Anthony told MSG after the game. "It's an unfortunate situation. Nobody saw it coming. My hat goes off to Mike. We had a wonderful relationship."

TNT's David Aldridge reported that a rift may have developed when D'Antoni wanted to trade Anthony for Nets guard Deron Williams.

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

Knicks romp in opener for Woodson

While the circus surrounded the Knicks all day it didn't provide any benefit for the hapless Trail Blazers.

A noticeably more energetic Knicks squad drubbed Portland, 121-79, in interim head coach Mike Woodson's debut.

When Woodson was brought aboard as an assistant coach before the season, the general assumption was he would become the de facto defensive coordinator.

One of the reason's the Knicks were on a six-game losing streak was their lack of defense. Not last night. They allowed just 29 points in the first half, the fewest in an opening half since 2001.

Anthony, free of a coach he wasn't on the same page with, had 16 points and seven assists in 24 minutes. J.R. Smith had seven 3-pointers off the bench. METRO

In the news

Howard gone?

The Dwight Howard saga will reach its conclusion today at 3 p.m. Sort of.

Multiple outlets reported last night that Howard wouldn't mind finishing the current season in Orlando, but won't commit to opting into his final year in 2012-13.

That likely means the Magic will be forced to trade the All-Star center before today's deadline. The question is who will make the best offer.

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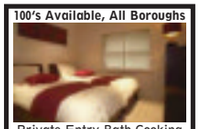
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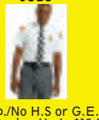
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